



**MCI Communications
Corporation**

1801 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

December 20, 1996

Mr. William F. Caton
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room 222
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Re: EX PARTE in MCI Communications Corp. and British Telecommunications
plc (BT) Application for Transfer of Control, GN Docket No. 96-245**

Dear Mr. Caton:

Attached is a copy of the MCI press announcement that Mary Brown, Senior Policy Counsel, MCI Federal Regulatory Affairs, sent by E-mail to Kerry Murray of the International Bureau on December 19, 1996. In the attached press announcement, MCI applauds the decision of U.K. regulators to grant 45 new international licenses that will allow international telephone companies to carry traffic to and from the U.K. over their own facilities.

Sincerely yours,

Don Sussman
Regulatory Analyst

CC: Kerry Murray, International Bureau, Room 842, 2000, M Street, NW
Jim Graf, BTNA

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**CONTACT:****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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MCI

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**MCI APPLAUDS DECISION OF UK REGULATORS TO GRANT
INTERNATIONAL FACILITIES LICENSES**

Washington, DC December 19, 1996 -- MCI today applauded the decision of UK regulators to grant 45 new international licenses that will allow international telephone companies to carry traffic to and from the U.K. over their own facilities. The action is further proof of the UK's leading role in opening its telecommunications market to competition. MCI was one of approximately 20 U.S. carriers, of the 45, to be awarded such a license.

"The granting of these international licenses again demonstrates that the UK is one of the most open markets in the world," said Seth Blumenfeld, president of MCI International.

"The UK is at the forefront of telecommunications liberalization and we hope other countries will follow its example so that there will be opportunities to compete as fully in overseas markets as are available today in the U.K."

The issuing of the licenses by The Department of Trade and Industry is pursuant to its decision to end the international telecom duopoly that had previously existed in the U.K. In so doing, the UK government is removing one of the last restrictions on operators in the UK telecommunications market.

MCI, headquartered in Washington, DC, provides a full range of integrated communications services to more than 20 million customers. With quarterly annualized revenue of more than \$18 billion, MCI is one of the largest and fastest growing telecommunications companies in the world.

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